

## PATIENT TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL NO. 6797

I, Elizabeth A. Martin, as a patient of a naturopathic physician and a believer in this medical approach, feel that allowing prescriptive authority to all certified ND practitioners in the State of Connecticut will effectively "round out" quality health care in our fair state. Naturopathy should no longer be restricted nor treated as a "drugless profession." Rather, its scope should be expanded to meet the 21<sup>st</sup> Century needs of patients, which includes the prescribing of pharmaceutical drugs when necessary.

My testimony comes with firsthand experience and a bout with Lyme Disease in the fall of 2010, which lasted for a period of approximately 4-6 weeks. I'd been bitten by an infected tick but was unaware of this ... yet was showing overt and neurological signs. I (thankfully) took an open-minded, two-pronged approach to get relief and a proper diagnosis: 1/ in seeking the services of an allopathic (conventional) physicians; and 2/ in seeking further services of a naturopathic physician.

My conventional route proved to be inconclusive and expensive (for me and my healthcare insurance company both). I went to several allopathic physicians, as well as to the emergency room at a local hospital. All visits resulted in palliative, pain-relieving drugs, which didn't solve nor identify my problem. Included was an expensive CT scan procedure that determined absolutely nothing.

My condition however had been diagnosed right away by an ND physician (Dr. Kathleen Riley). That's when I asked my allopathic physician to prescribe Lyme titer testing, which indeed turned up Lyme Positive. Key here is that if Dr. Riley had the prescriptive authorization, she would've been able to cure my situation at the get-go with the needed doxycycline hyclate to resolve my condition.

Please allow Connecticut to become another success story in matters of health and healing.

Sincerely,

*Liz*

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